

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended and new claims 7-23 are added. Therefore, claims 1-23 are now presented for consideration.

No new matter is presented in the foregoing claim amendments and new claims, and accordingly, approval and entry of same are submitted to be proper and are respectfully solicited.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

On page 2 of the Office Action, at item 1, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

In particular, the Examiner contends that "item numbers [i.e., numerical references] 105, 107a, 108, 113-120, 120a and 122-128 are not mentioned in the description."

Numerical Reference 122 – An Expandable Cylinder

Applicant traverses the requirement with respect to numerical reference 122, since the expandable cylinder 122 is disclosed in the original specification at page 2, line 10. Further, numerical reference 122a has been removed from FIG. 1. It is believed that the Examiner incorrectly listed numerical reference 122 instead of properly listing numerical reference 122a.

Other Numerical References 105, 107a, 108, 113-120, 120a and 123-128

FIGS. 1 and 2 are amended to remove numerical references 105, 107a, 108, 113-120, 120a and 123-128.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, at item 2, FIGS. 3-4 are objected to and should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art—

FIGS. 3 and 4 are amended to add the legend "Prior Art," as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, at item 4, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art of Figures 1 and 2.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor device loading apparatus, and recites "a space adjusting plate to adjust pitches of the vacuum adsorbers" and "a guide block fixing plate formed to be separate from the body to guide the semiconductor devices ..." (emphasis added).

Applicant's Admitted Prior Art

Applicant's Admitted Prior Art merely discloses that "a zigzag extension member 121 ... is operated by an expandable cylinder 122" and that "the [zigzag] extension member 121 [is] comprised of a plurality of links to adjust the spaces between the pickup cylinders 112 ..." (See original specification at page 2, lines 9-10 and page 3, lines 20-21.) It is clear from this disclosure and FIGS. 1 and 2 that the zigzag extension member 121 is not "a space adjusting plate" (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the original disclosure is completely silent regarding numerical reference 108 (i.e., which the Examiner contends corresponding to the guide block fixing plate of the present invention recited in claim 1). Moreover, it is clear from FIG. 1 that the element represented by numerical reference 108 is not separate from the frame member 104 (i.e., which the Examiner contends corresponding to the body of the present invention recited in claim 1).

Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art and is submitted to be allowable.

Claims 2-6

Claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

NEW CLAIMS 7-23

New claims 7-23 are provide to afford a varying scope of protection.

New claim 7 is directed to a semiconductor device loading apparatus, and recites "an elevation control unit coupled to the space adjusting unit and controlling an elevation of the space adjusting unit to change a spacing between respective adjacent device loading units in accordance with the elevation of the space adjusting unit," and is submitted to be allowable.

New claim 18 is directed to a method, and recites "adjusting pitches of vacuum adsorbers by one of lifting and lowering of a space adjusting plate," and is submitted to be allowable.

New claim 19 recites "changing a spacing between adjacent device loading units in accordance with an elevation of a space adjusting unit by controlling an elevation thereof," and is submitted to be allowable.

New claim 23 directed to a semiconductor device loading apparatus, and recites "a space adjusting plate to adjust pitches of the vacuum adsorbers, and an elevation guiding unit to guide one of lifting and lowering of the space adjusting plate such that, when the space adjusting plate is lifted or lowered, the pitches of the vacuum adsorbers are adjusted," and is submitted to be allowable.

Claims 8-17 and 20-22, which depend from claims 7 and 19, are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 7 and 19, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

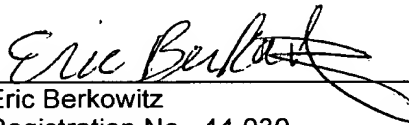
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5/7/04

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